(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) & (b) above.

Warning of global warming

466. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across the warning issued by WHO at a workshop on climate change that was held at Kuala Lumpur that "global policy makers must act quickly to address the critical problem of global warming or face serious health and economic consequences"; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. World Health Organisation (WHO) has not issued such warning at the Kuala Lumpur Workshop on climate change held in July 2007 that "global policy makers must act quickly to address the critical problem of global warning or face serious health and economic consequances".

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Extraction of dolomite from Bhutan

† 467. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to indiscriminate extraction of dolomite from Bhutan Hills, the rivers on the Indian side are getting silted causing flood every year; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take up the matter with the Bhutan Government to stop extraction of dolomite to save endangered flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management has already been constituted between Indian and Bhutan to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India. Subsequently on the recommendation of JGE a Joint Technical team has been constituted, which in its preliminary report has suggested studies and preparation of maps for deciding remedial measures.

Sports infrastructure in Karnataka

468. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to develop sports infrastructure in Karnataka during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of state Governments for creating of sports facilities in various places, including rural areas, by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure scheme. But with effect from 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State Governments.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The details of grants released to Government of Karnataka under the erstwhile Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure during the last five years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	2006-07		
Amount released	No. of Projects	Amount released	No. of Projects	Amount released	No. of Projects	Amount released	No. of Projects	Amount released	No. of Projects
82.20	14	58.7	8	101.3	9	0.00	0	42.60	2

During the current financial year 2007-08, no funds have been provided under the erstwhile Sports Infrastructure Scheme.

The Central Government through the Sports Authority of India has also created the following sports infrastructure during the last five years:

(i) Providing/laying of synthetic hockey surface at Bangalore;

(ii) Construction of 100-bedded Girls Hostel at Bangalore; and

(iii) Construction of Hostel building at Medikari.

With a view to addressing the huge gap in the availability of sports infrastructure, especially at the grassroots level, the Ministry have received the in-principle approval of the Planning Commission to launch a nation-wide programme entitled 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan', which aims at providing all village and intermediate Panchayats with basic sports infrastructure in a phased manner over a period of 10 years.

Opening of MEA offices

469. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open MEA offices in Chennai and other cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of opening of such an Office in Orissa to meet the needs of the people of this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Branch Secretariates of the Ministry are functioning in Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai. There is a proposal to open an office in Guwahati soon.

(c) There is no proposal to open such an office in Orissa, at present.

Setting up of a task force to assist negotiations

470. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a three-member task force so that India adopts a uniform, informed position on issues like nuclear non-proliferation, missile defence and missile materials;